

# WORSHIP RESOURCES

by Pastor Oscar E. Banks IV

## Call to Worship

We gather to worship the God of all creation -  
**Our hearts are open, and our minds are receptive.**

We gather in unity as a hope for the world -  
**Our lives are connected, and our love  
has no bounds.**

We gather to share in the grace and love of Jesus -  
**Our hope is built on the love of Christ, living on in  
each of us.**

No matter our backgrounds, our faults,  
or our leanings -

**We are bound together in discipleship and by the  
power of the Holy Spirit!**

## Invocation

Holy Spirit, you are welcome in this space  
to create and recreate our hearts, our minds, our  
purposes, and our desires.

We welcome your transformative power  
to access the deepest parts of us.

Align us with the person and purpose of Jesus  
Christ our Lord,  
that we might give our all in compassion and care  
for others.

Have your way O God in our lives, both now and  
forever. Amen.

## Prayer for the Community

We have gathered from the four corners of  
our community,  
and are gathering around the world,  
to seek how we might serve our neighbor  
with a little more love and compassion than we did  
the day before.

We gather with concerns that often hinder our  
consideration for others.

We gather to offer gifts of worship, words,  
and wonder.

As we lift these gifts in unity, we pray the peace,  
comfort, and joy of the Lord  
will heal our brokenness, inspire our thoughts, and  
enliven our passion for love.

In the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

## Communion Meditation

The most uncomfortable seat on the airplane is  
the middle seat. Stuck between a seat of free-  
range access of movement and a seat of comfort.  
Stuck between the gatekeeper seat and the seat  
of views of the beautiful clouds. Stuck in the seat  
that owns no armrest. Stuck between. As Jesus sat  
at the table with his friends preparing to face the  
biggest test of his life, Jesus was stuck between  
the conclusion of his earthly journey and the  
hope of resurrection. Jesus was stuck between  
breaking bread with committed friends and with  
a compromised foe. In this stuck-between space,  
Jesus stayed focused on his purpose. Jesus stayed  
focused on his destination of bridging the gap  
between a broken humanity and the God of our  
salvation. We come to this table, stuck between  
tending to what we have and need for ourselves,  
and attending to the cries and needs of the  
world around us. We gather to be freed from that  
dilemma, at a bountiful table where there is always  
more than enough to live on. We come to take  
bread and cup, remembering the One who is with  
us in our in between, and who calls us forward to  
our life's faithful purpose.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Creator, Savior, Sustainer of all,  
we've come together on this day to give you praise,  
for you alone are worthy of all the glory.

We thank you for your passion displayed at  
this table.

We thank you for giving your all - in your living and  
in your dying.

As we partake of these blessings in your name,  
build in us compassion for your people in the  
struggle beyond this space.

Lead us by the power of your Holy Spirit and the  
teachings of our redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Invitation to Offering

*"Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see."*

As we consider our offering, let these words become more than a hymn. May we remember it is God's grace that keeps us. We have the opportunity to pay forward the grace that has found us. We can be a blessing to those in need. This church is part of our community in so many ways. [Name some of the outreach in which your church takes part.]

Let us give freely and joyfully to the work of Jesus Christ in the ministry of Week of Compassion, our relief, refugee, and sustainable development ministry, a part of the whole Disciples church. Gifts we share, today and throughout the year, make the ministry of Week of Compassion possible - bringing relief following disaster, helping refugees settle into new homes, and transforming suffering into hope, around the world. May our small gift live on beyond this moment and breathe life into hearts unknown to us. Let our light shine through these gifts of love, alleviating suffering and restoring lives. Let our light burn bright into the darkest spaces, and bring healing to our world.

## Prayer of Dedication

Most holy and ever-loving God, we give thanks for these gifts of love, given from the resources we live on, shared so others may live on as well. May your Spirit increase our gifts to expand your work through your church. Bountifully bless your people who so freely gave of their treasure, whether large or small. We pray these blessings over your people in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

## Benediction

We gathered for worship -

**Now let us go to serve.**

We gathered for praise -

**Now let us go to love.**

We gathered in unity -

**Now let us go to light up the world.**

With all that we have, all that we are,

and all that we hope to be -

**Let us offer our lives to God in this day**

**and forever more!**



photo: OGMP/Adam Frieberg